

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

5 A fiber-optic cable includes a conductive coating formed around an
optical fiber. The conductive coating may be in the shape of a band or ring
located at a terminal end of the fiber, or may extend along the entire length of
the fiber or a portion thereof. For protection purposes, the fiber is covered
with a buffer made from a plastic or polymer. The fiber-optic cable may be
attached to a plug or receptacle of a connector. Preferably, the cable is
10 attached to the plug. Under these circumstances, the receptacle would be
equipped with a verification circuit for confirming that the plug has been
properly installed into the receptacle housing. An electronic device may be
used to alert a user as to whether proper installation has occurred. In addition
to providing an indication that an optical connection has been made, the
15 conductive coating may be adapted to carry electrical signals. In this way, the
fiber-optic cable would operate as an electrical transmission line and an
optical transmission line.